

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm. Selectmen present were Roberta Gerkin, James McIlroy, and Janet Smith. Others present were Police Chief Reed, Town Counsel – Fran Lane, Brian Hart, and Wolfe Tone.

The False Alarm Ordinance language was fine tuned. The second Public Hearing was completed.

Chief Reed informed the Selectmen that when the generator is used at the Town Hall only the upstairs foyer is lit. The other lights must be re-wired to work off of the generator. The kitchen is not available and there is only one bathroom. The Selectmen determined that the Elementary School would be the best place for the town emergency shelter, but the school does not have a generator.

Chief Reed was given defibrillators by the Fire Department. The life expectancy of the units has expired and it costs almost as much to replace the batteries as to replace the whole unit. The Chief would like to dispose of the units. He will take the batteries out and dispose of them properly.

The minutes of the Deliberative Session were reviewed and minor changes were made. James made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Fran Lane advised that Attorney Peter Kearns contacted him recently about meeting to discuss the noise complaint. Fran is looking for direction from the Selectmen on whether or not to meet with Attorney Kearns. Chief Reed has spent a lot of time, money, and resources trying to resolve the situation. There is no police ordinance at this time and according to the court the current noise ordinance is unenforceable. Fish and Game decibel meters do not hold up in court. At this point, the Selectmen are not going to pursue this matter any further.

The Selectmen are asking the Planning Board to look into changing the Noise Ordinance – possibly adding an Amendment regard vehicle idling.

Fran offered to meet with Attorney Kearns and report back to the Selectmen.

James made a motion to defer to counsel to write a response to Attorney Kearns informing him that in this specific instance it would be impractical to try to enforce the noise ordinance. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Fran will have a draft of the letter back to the Selectmen before next Tuesday's meeting.

The Selectmen asked Nancy to compare prices for a quantity of 2,500 checks between ADS, Staples, W.B.Mason, etc. They decided to go with three signatures on the checks instead of four as required at this time.

A letter from Comcast was received via certified mail informing the Town of the new "Family Tier Package" available to residents. The letter is available at the Town Office for review.

Janet made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21st meeting. James seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Elderly Exemption was discussed. Letters are going out to all current exemption holders with new forms that must be updated and returned to the Town Office no later than April 3, 2006. If the completed forms are not returned by said date, the exemption will no longer be granted.

The Selectmen asked Nancy to put the town landscaping out to bid. They also asked her to contact the company that did the repairs to the slate roof on the Town Hall to replace slates lost from the last storm.

Reuben Hull provided information via e-mail on snow importation. The Selectmen asked Nancy to provide copies to Ray Buxton, Water Commissioner and Jed Rumford.

Brian Hart and Wolfe Tone brought the Selectmen up to date on the progress of the Piscassic Greenway purchase. Wolfe will e-mail a letter to Nancy indicating that the Town is donating Two Million Dollars for the purchase of property. James made a motion that he (James) will sign the letter. Roberta seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Wolfe needs to know the Town's bonding transaction cost to be included in the overall cost of the project.

The expected date for the closing is April 24th, 2006.

James made a motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. Roberta seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer

